REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-41 are currently pending. No claim amendments are presented, thus no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Araki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,014,696, hereafter "Araki") in view of Te et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,785,864, hereafter "Te").

With respect to the rejection to Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection. Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*,

> transmitting, from the terminal unit, a first request signal to a page data providing apparatus for requesting first page data;
>
> receiving, at the terminal unit, notification page data from the page data providing apparatus prior to receiving the first page data when the page data providing apparatus determines that the notification page data is stored on a predetermined memory location on the page data providing apparatus, the notification page data providing predetermined notification information related to the first page data; and
>
> receiving, at the terminal unit, the first page data from the page data providing apparatus without receiving notification page data when the page data providing apparatus determines that notification page data is not stored in the predetermined memory location on the page data providing apparatus.

Applicants submit that the combination of Araki and Te fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of Claim 1.

Araki is directed to a method of restricting a client to refer to data of a web server by using a web browser. Fig. 1 of Araki shows a client-server system including a client 1, network 2, and server 3. Fig. 2 shows a processing sequence between the client 1 and the

server 3. First, the client acquires a page descriptive file 6 from the server 3 (S1 and S2). The page descriptive file has a confirmation button for which the user of the client can confirm that he or she will receive a service for obtaining pages under a reference restriction (see col. 6, lines 15-22). The server then sends a character sequence (password, random number, etc.) to the client (see col. 6, lines 26-38 and Fig. 2, S5). The client can then send a page-acquirement request using the password to the server (see Fig. 2, S6). The server confirms the password and sends the first page to the client, which was rewritten to refer to symbolic links 20 (see col. 6, lines 56-60, and Fig. 2, S8). The symbolic links 20 indicate substantial contents of a page descriptive file and a relevant data file 7.

The Office Action appears to interpret that the step S8 shown in Fig. 2 corresponds to "receiving, at the terminal unit, the first page data from the page data providing apparatus without receiving notification page data when the page data providing apparatus determines that notification page data is not stored in the predetermined memory location on the page data providing apparatus," as defined in Claim 1. Therefore, it appears that the Office Action interprets the page descriptive file and relevant data file 7 sent to the client in step S8 of Fig. 2 as corresponding to the claimed "first page data" of Claim 1. However, the Office Action has not indicated what it interprets to be the claimed "notification page data" of Claim 1. Even if Araki does describe notification page data, the Office Action still has not shown that Araki describes that the server sends the page descriptive file and relevant data file 7 to the client **when the server determines that the notification page data is *not* stored in the predetermined memory** of the server 3. On the contrary, Araki describes and illustrates that step S8 is performed in a response to a user sending a character sequence in step S6. However, Araki makes no mention that step S8 is performed after determining that notification page data is ***not*** stored in a predetermined memory location.

Therefore, Applicants submit that Araki fails to disclose or suggest "receiving, at the terminal unit, the first page data from the page data providing apparatus without receiving notification page data ***when the page data providing apparatus determines that notification page data is not stored in the predetermined memory location*** on the page data providing apparatus," as defined in Claim 1.

The Office Action further acknowledges that Araki fails to disclose or suggest "receiving, at the terminal unit, notification page data from the page data providing apparatus prior to receiving the first page data when the page data providing apparatus determines that the notification page data is stored on a predetermined memory location on the page data providing apparatus, the notification page data providing predetermined notification information related to the first page data," as defined in Claim 1.

The Office Action relies on Te to remedy the deficiencies of Araki with regard to Claim 1.

Te is directed to a system of notifying changes in web page hyperlinked documents. Fig. 1 shows a server 110 having the system 100, which includes a subscription program 12, a notify reports program 150, a notify program 140 and a canvasser program 130. Fig. 13 illustrates that a user using a web browser requests notification of any changes to a hyperlinked document 116 by selecting notification icon 146 which is located on every web page 114 (see col. 7, lines 1-4). When the user selects the notification icon 146, subscription program 120 is invoked at server 110 and gets a copy of the current web page 114, and converts and returns a notification page 118 which has a list of hypertext links with checkboxes next to them (see col. 7, lines 5-9). The user selects certain hypertext links for which it wants to be notified of any changes to the document corresponding to the link (see col. 7, lines 10-14 and lines 52-67). The canvasser program is used to check if any of the hyperlinked document have changed (see col. 8, lines 35-52). The notify program 140 runs

after the canvasser program and produces a notify memo indicating the hyperlinked documents for which the user has subscribed to which have changed (see col. 9, lines 28-38). The notify reports program 150 is a program which generates reports for the user for various functions, such as allowing a user to see what hyperlinked documents it on notification for (see col. 9, lines 46-55).

The Office Action takes the position that Te discloses "receiving, at the terminal unit, notification page data from the page data providing apparatus prior to receiving the first page data when the page data providing apparatus determines that the notification page data is stored on a predetermined memory location on the page data providing apparatus, the notification page data providing predetermined notification information related to the first page data" based on Te's description of the notify reports program 150 (see Office Action, at page 3).

As discussed above, Te describes sending a notification report via the notify reports program 150 after a canvassing program finds changes to hyperlink documents for which a user subscribed to receive updates on. However, Te never explicitly describes that the server sends the notification report (as notification page data) prior to sending first page data, which the user originally requested, when it determines that the notification report is stored in a predetermined memory location.

Furthermore, Te never describes that the server sends the equivalent of "first page data" in Claim 1 when the server determines that the notification report is ***not*** stored in the predetermined memory location.

Additionally, Applicants emphasize that the combination of Araki and Te do not disclose or suggest the features of Claim 1 ***as a whole***. Thus, there is no teaching in Te to modify Araki so that it achieves ***both*** the conditions described in Claim 1. In other words, there is no suggestion in the combination of Araki and Te that a client will either ***receive the***

page data he requested or he will ***receive a notification page prior to receiving the page data*** he requested ***based on whether the notification page is stored in a predetermined memory location***.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the combination of Araki and Te fails to disclose or suggest all of "receiving, at the terminal unit, notification page data from the page data providing apparatus prior to receiving the first page data when the page data providing apparatus determines that the notification page data is stored on a predetermined memory location on the page data providing apparatus, the notification page data providing predetermined notification information related to the first page data," and "receiving, at the terminal unit, the first page data from the page data providing apparatus without receiving notification page data when the page data providing apparatus determines that notification page data is not stored in the predetermined memory location on the page data providing apparatus," as defined in Claim 1.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably distinguishes over Araki and Te, either alone or in proper combination.

Independent Claims 12, 23, 30, and 41 recite features similar to those of Claim 1 discussed above. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 12, 23, 30, and 41 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably distinguish over Araki and Te, either alone or in proper combination.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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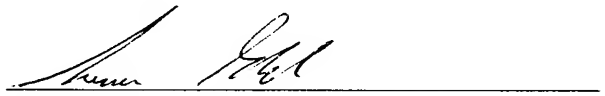

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